

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 9, 2002**

**ATTENDANCE**

**COUNCIL:** Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (Chair - District 4), Jerry Trumps (Vice Chair - District 6), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Robert Castille (District 2), Chris Williams (District 3), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

**ABSENT:** None

**COUNCIL STAFF:** Norma Dugas (Clerk), Veronica Williams, (Assistant Clerk), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Steve Dupuis (City-Parish Attorney), Becky Lalumia (Finance), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Utilities Director), Tony Tramel (Director of Transportation), John Raines (Director of Public Works), Benny Soulier (Administrative Services)

**COMMENCEMENT**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. called the Special Council Meeting of October 9, 2002 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(003) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Jerry Trumps was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Benjamin thanked the Administration for all of the hard work and dedication of the employees during the cleanup of the aftermath of Hurricane Lili and commended all those involved.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: **EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

a. Presentation by Administration as to status of aftermath of Hurricane Lili.

City-Parish President Comeaux reiterated comments made by Benjamin and commended the employees and volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Bill Vincent, Office of Emergency Preparedness, explained with the emergency plans that are in place, it allowed for everyone involved to successfully work as a team. Louisiana was very fortunate that the storm did not hit land at the expected category. Director of Utilities Terry Huval and Director of Public Works John Raines each gave a brief presentation on the status of aftermath of Hurricane Lili with regard to their departments and also commended their employees for their dedication.

Huval explained his department has an emergency manual that includes an organizational chart that assigns tasks for all LUS employees. He commended several employees who heroically went out during the height of the storm to work on keeping the circuit and the conductors in a position to keep the plant energized to be able to supply electricity. He introduced William Walker, who, while in a bucket truck, heroically attempted to keep the lines energized. Walker stated he and his fellow workers did what they thought they had to do. Huval also introduced the other men who were out with Walker during the storm along with the other members of his staff. Once the generator went completely down, it was acknowledged there was no way to bring up the power until after the storm. The closest line with power was located near Ville Platte. The power plant cannot start without external power. Huval contacted Cleco requesting assistance in energizing their line in order to connect power to start up the generating plant at LUS.

Huval read a list of contractors, who were not present, that assisted in restoring power and introduced representatives from various power companies who also assisted in the endeavor. It took 5 days to restore power to all customers. From a cost perspective, there was significant damage to the utilities system and minimal damage to the facilities. The cost of damages,

including contract labor, material and all aspects of restoring service, is estimated to be \$7–\$8 million. Huval thanked Mr. Comeaux, Mr. Weber, Council and his employees for their patience, dedication and hard work. Several Councilmembers commended Huval and his staff for their responsiveness during and after the storm.

Raines stated his department was in the process of working with FEMA on applying for reimbursement. He explained in the BFI contract there was an emergency provision procedure for situations such as Hurricane Lili, which allows LCG to exercise that provision and put in place the cleanup effort with the contractor. He stated that FEMA indicated they were pleased that LCG had a contract. Public Works began working with BFI on commencing cleanup. Raines met with FEMA and felt confident that once FEMA's attorneys reviewed the contract, they would provide assistance.

He requested that the public bring the debris as close to the road as possible without placing in the street. BFI will not pickup hazardous waste or toxic materials that wouldn't be allowed. He also encouraged the public not to place debris near mailboxes, utility pedestals or gas meters. Raines estimated the cost of damages for Public Works is approximately \$3.5 to \$4.5 million.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(001)

Badeaux requested the Administration utilize local contractors as much as possible in the event outside contractors are unable to completely assist in cleanup or repair. Broussard commended and thanked Raines and his staff for their hard work and dedication. Stevenson expressed his concern with regard to debris pickup and timeframes of same. Raines stated there will be more than one round of pickup throughout the parish. Upon questioning by Stevenson, Weber felt confident LCG will get reimbursement from FEMA and stated under optimum conditions, LCG would receive a 75% reimbursement and possibly some reimbursement from the State. He added with damages suffered by Public Works, Utilities and other buildings the estimated cost of damage is \$14.5 million. Williams requested information on what position the government plans to take to assist or not assist families who are financially constrained in order that civic groups and churches may become more involved. Weber responded that those residents may contact FEMA for assistance.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(341) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: R-061-2002 An emergency resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing the filing of an application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement for disaster related expenses allowable by the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-1437-DR) dated October 3, 2002. A motion to approve by Trumps, seconded by Badeaux, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

## **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(371) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Emergency O-276-2002 An emergency ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing all necessary contractual services with reference to the collection and disposal of storm debris caused by Hurricane Lili in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana and to provide funding therefore. A motion to approve by Stevenson, seconded by Mouton, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

Weber explained this ordinance appropriates funds for the estimated cost of the cleanup and authorizes LCG to proceed with the contractual arrangements, providing that FEMA submits a reimbursement.

## **INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCES**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(515) AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Mouton, to approve for introduction the following ordinance and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

6. O-277-2002 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing all necessary contractual services with reference to the collection and disposal of storm debris caused by Hurricane Lili in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana and to provide funding therefore.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(534) AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 Comments from the public concerning the above Introductory Ordinance.

*None.*

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Benjamin declared the special Council meeting adjourned.

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Norma A. Dugas  
Clerk of the Council